

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2329

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MEXICO 14170

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PARM, MX

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES' BI-
LATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN OFFICE

1. SUMMARY:

IN A SERIES OF WIDE-RANGING TALKS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES ON AUGUST 24, MEXICAN FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS, WHO INCLUDED UNDERSECRETARY DE OLLOQUI AND IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY GONZALEZ GALVEZ, REVEALED THAT MEXICO PLANS SEEK U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT IN 1980 ELECTION AS PART OF NEW POLICY OF MORE POSITIVE PARTICIPATION IN U.N. AND OAS; PROMISED THAT MEXICO WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO AVOID DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO IN UPCOMING COMMITTEE OF 24 MEETING; AGREED TO ATTEMPT DISSUADE SOVIETS FROM REPEATING INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT WHEN THEY FORMALLY RATIFY PROTOCOL I, TREATY OF TLATELOLCO, AND REAFFIRMED A DESIRE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH U.S. ON NUMBER OF U.N. ISSUES, INCLUDING DISARMAMENT AND CHARTER REFORM.

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AT SAME TIME MEXICANS REVEALED THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO HAD VETOED FOREIGN OFFICE'S ATTEMPTS GET MEXICAN PARTICIPATION IN NAMIBIA AND UNIFEL. PLANS WERE MADE FOR CLOSE CONSULTATION AT UPCOMING UNGA. END SUMMARY.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES' CONSULTATIONS BEGAN WITH SESSION WITH PRINCIPAL MEXICAN FON SEC OFFICIALS CONCERNED

WITH U.N. AFFAIRS LED BY IO ASST SEC GONZALEZ GALVEZ (GG), WHO OPENED SESSION WITH DISCOURSE ON MEXICO'S PREOCCUPATION THAT U.N. IS NOT FULFILLING ROLE FOR WHICH IT WAS CREATED. MEXICO'S PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO AND FOREIGN MINISTER ROEL ARE ATTEMPTING TO RECTIFY THIS SITUATION BY ADOPTING A NEW AND POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE U.N. THIS APPROACH INCLUDES A DECISION TO REVERSE MEXICO'S TRADITIONAL POLICY OF AVOIDING U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND TO SEEK A SEAT IN THE 1980 ELECTION, THE FORMULATION OF NEW PROPOSALS FOR U.N. CHARTER REFORM, AND ACTIVE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE OTHER IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN CONTEXT OF PRESENT CHARTER.

3. CITING DISARMAMENT AS ONE AREA WHERE MEXICO IS TAKING NEW INITIATIVES, GONZALEZ GALVEZ NOTED THAT MEXICO HAS OFTEN PUSHED THE U.S. "HARD, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE" ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. HE ADDED THAT MEXICO BELIEVES FIRMLY THAT REGIONAL DISARMAMENT INITIATIVES WILL BE SUCCESSFUL ONLY IF PART OF A GLOBAL DISARMAMENT STRATEGY, AND THAT CONVENTIONAL ARMS LIMITATION EFFORTS CANNOT BE AN EXERCISE IN "DISARMING THE DISARMED". HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF RECENTLY COMPLETED MEXICO CITY MEETING ON REGIONAL ARMS LIMITATION (SEPTEL) AND CITED AUGUST 28 GENEVA MEETING, WHERE MEXICO WILL SEEK BAN ON TRANSFER OF CERTAIN ESPECIALLY DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONS AS EXAMPLE OF HOW REGIONAL AND

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GLOBAL DISARMAMENT EFFORTS ARE LINKED.

4. THE OAS, SAID GG, IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT AREA WHERE MEXICO PLANS TAKE A NEW POSITIVE APPROACH. BASED ON EARLIER PERCEPTIONS OF OAS AS GROUP OF "MANY MICE AND ONE CAT", MEXICO'S POLICY HAS BEEN "NOT TO TRY TO DO SOMETHING, BUT RATHER TO KEEP OTHERS FROM DOING SOMETHING". MEXICO BELIEVED RIO TREATY HAD BEEN USED ILLEGALLY IN PAST, E.G., IN MEASURES ADOPTED AGAINST CUBA, BUT THAT NEW AMENDMENTS HAVE NARROWED POSSIBILITIES OF USING TREATY TO PROMOTE "HEGEMONY" (OF THE U.S.). MEXICO NOW CONSIDERS THAT WITH THE CHARTER CHANGES MADE RECENTLY THE OAS IS A GOOD MEDIUM FOR MEXICAN-U.S. DIALOGUE ON A REGIONAL BASIS.

5. ASST SEC MAYNES RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT THE UNITED STATES' APPROACHES TO MANY OF THE ISSUES MENTIONED BY GONZALEZ GALVEZ ARE MORE SIMILAR TO MEXICO'S THAN IN THE PAST. HE STRESSED PRESIDENT CARTER'S NEW AND VERY POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE UNITED NATIONS, CITING ANDREW YOUNG'S APPOINTMENT AS U.N. AMBASSADOR AND SECRETARY VANCE'S LONG-TIME PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE UNITED NATIONS

AS EVIDENCE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING THE U.N. NOTING PRESIDENT CARTER'S ELECTORAL PLEDGE REGARDING UNITED NATIONS REFORM, MAYNES SAID THAT THIS RESULTED IN A COMPREHENSIVE U.S. STUDY ON U.N. REFORM, WHICH HAS BEEN FAVORABLY RECEIVED. REFERRING TO MEXICO'S STATED INTEREST IN REFORM, MAYNES RECALLED THAT HE HAS INSTRUCTED THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE MEXICAN DELEGATION

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IF THEY WISH TO DEVELOP A COMMON STRATEGY IN THIS AREA. MAYNES SAID HE SHARED GONZALEZ GALVEZ' BELIEF THAT THE U.N. MUST BE STRENGTHENED AND THAT BOTH THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY MUST ACCEPT GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS IMPROVEMENT.

6. MAYNES EXPRESSED GREAT PLEASURE AT LEARNING OF MEXICO'S CHANGE IN POLICY TOWARDS THE SECURITY COUNCIL. HE NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL HAS ASSUMED MUCH MORE IMPORTANCE IN RECENT YEARS AND THAT THIS IS BEING RECOGNIZED BY COUNTRIES LIKE NIGERIA, WHICH NOW WISHES TO JOIN DESPITE NEGATIVE REGIONAL ATTITUDES IN AFRICA, AND JAPAN, WHICH IS ALSO INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP. MAYNES OPINED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE THE CONTRIBUTION WHICH A COUNTRY CAN MAKE, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST COUNTRIES HAVE APPROACHED MEMBERSHIP ON THE COUNCIL AS A MATTER OF ROTATION RATHER THAN AS A QUESTION OF SERIOUS WORK AND PARTICIPATION.

7. MAYNES THEN OUTLINED USG PROPOSALS FOR SECURITY COUNCIL REFORMS. FIRST, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE COUNCIL MEETINGS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR TO PLAN AND
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DISCUSS THE COUNCIL'S WORK. HOPEFULLY SUCH MEETINGS WOULD RESULT IN THE COUNCIL'S BECOMING INVOLVED IN A BROADER RANGE OF ISSUES THAN MERELY THE MIDDLE EAST, CYPRUS, ETC. REACTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS HAS THUS FAR BEEN MIXED, WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES AND INDIA RESPONDING VERY FAVORABLY, THE NON-ALIGNED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DEMONSTRATING A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE, AND CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION TAKING A VERY HOSTILE POSITION. IN CHINA'S CASE, IT IS VERY OPPOSED TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL THAT COUNCIL SESSIONS BE OFF THE RECORD BECAUSE ONE OF ITS PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES IS TO USE PUBLIC COUNCIL MEETINGS TO DENOUNCE THE SOVIET UNION. A SECOND AREA FOR COUNCIL REFORM WOULD BE TO HAVE MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES, WHO WOULD FOCUS ON IDENTIFYING AND WORKING TOWARD THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. AT PRESENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES MEET MONTHLY FOR LUNCH BUT STEADFASTLY AVOID SUBSTANCE.

8. MR. MAYNES THEN NOTED THE SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF INITIATIVES THE U.S. HAS TAKEN IN THE FIELD OF DISARMEMENT, WHILE STRESSING THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A SALT AGREEMENT IS BY FAR THE NUMBER ONE U.S. DISARMAMENT PRIORITY. THE U.S. IS CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS BUT WE ANTICIPATE A VERY DIFFICULT STRUGGLE TO OBTAIN SENATE APPROVAL. MEXICO CAN CONTINUE TO PUSH US ON VARIOUS DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS, BUT IT SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT ALL U.S. POSITIONS MUST BE VIEWED IN TERMS OF HOW THEY WILL PROMOTE SENATE PASSAGE OF A SALT AGREEMENT.

9. TURNING TO NAMIBIA, MR. MAYNES DESCRIBED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE U.N.'S NEW APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM WHERE THE NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVES OF FIVE-COUNTRY CONTACT GROUP HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DECISIONS BEING TAKEN, AND THEN ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF MEXICO'S
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CONTRIBUTING EITHER MILITARY OR CIVILIAN PERSONNEL. GONZALEZ GALVEZ REPLIED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD, IN FACT, TRIED TO GET AUTHORIZATION FOR CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION BUT HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN BY PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO. CITING MEXICO'S LONG HISTORY AND TRADITION OF NOT SENDING PERSONNEL INTO A CONFLICT SITUATION, GONZALEZ GALVEZ SAID

HE DOUBTED THAT THE POLICY WOULD CHANGE AS REGARDS MILITARY PERSONNEL, BUT HE DID SEE HOPE THAT IT COULD BE CHANGED REGARDING CIVILIANS, PERHAPS WHEN MEXICO BECAME A SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER. HE ALSO PRAISED THE UNIFEL OPERATION, ABOUT WHICH HE HAD ORIGINALLY HARBORED DOUBT, AS A "CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF PREVENTATIVE DIPLOMACY", BUT NOTED THAT MEXICO HAD DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS PREVENTING PARTICIPATION HERE TOO. MR. MAYNES THEN STRESSED THE U.S. DESIRE TO HAVE THE U.N. PLAN FOR NAMIBIA EXECUTED ASAP, AND THE NEED TO INSURE ADEQUATE FINANCING FOR THE OPERATION.

10. DURING A DISCUSSION OF TLAHELCO TREATY, MR. MAYNES CITED U.S. EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RATIFICATION AND GAVE GONZALEZ GALVEZ COPY OF DAS BUSHNELL'S SPEECH BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. MAYNES NOTED THAT THE SOVIET STATEMENT RE RIGHT OF TRANSIT MADE WHEN THEY ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION TO SIGN WAS NOT AT ALL HELPFUL IN TERMS OF GETTING U.S. SENATE RATIFICATION. GONZALEZ GALVEZ SAID HE BELIEVED THE U.S. SHOULD TALK TO SOVIETS TO TRY TO GET THEM TO REFRAIN FROM MAKING AN INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT WHEN THEY RATIFY THE TREATY AND AGREED THAT MEXICO WOULD ALSO DO SO. GONZALEZ GALVEZ SAID THAT AS A DEPOSITORY MEXICO WANTED TO AVOID TAKING A PUBLIC POSITION ON THE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION ON THE TRANSIT ISSUE, BUT IF THIS BECAME NECESSARY HE BELIEVED MEXICO WOULD SIDE WITH THE U.S. HE ADDED THAT MEXICO AND PANAMA HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO PROHIBIT NUCLEAR TRANSIT AS A NATIONAL POLICY.

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11. DURING DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, MAYNES NOTED THAT RESOLUTION ON IRAN AND CUBA GAVE US PROBLEMS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS SHOULD RECEIVE THE SAME TREATMENT AS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS. SIMILARLY, BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE RIGHTS SHOULD RECEIVE SAME TREATMENT. GONZALEZ GALVEZ AGREED AND SAID MEXICO WOULD SUPPORT U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES IN G.A. GG WAS NONCOMMITTAL IN RESPONSE TO MAYNES' REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR POSITIVE ACTION RE "BOAT PEOPLE".

12. IN SEPARATE MEETING WITH UNDERSECRETARY DE OLLOQUI, MAYNES DESCRIBED CURRENT PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL SITUATION AND REQUESTED MEXICAN HELP IN AVOIDING DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO IN UPCOMING COMMITTEE OF 24 MEETING. DE OLLOQUI SAID THAT MEXICO WOULD WORK HARD BEHIND THE SCENES TO KEEP PUERTO RICO FROM BECOMING TOPIC OF DISCUSSION, BUT INDICATED THAT MEXICO WOULD HAVE TO BE MINDFUL OF ITS LATIN AMERICAN NEIGHBORS IF SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED.

12. MR. MAYNES ALSO REITERATED OUR PLEASURE AT LEARNING OF MEXICO'S NEW ATTITUDE TOWARD SECURITY COUNCIL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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MENTIONED POSITIVE INTEREST OF OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS JAPAN WHERE THIS INTEREST WAS THOUGHT BY SOME TO STEM FROM A DESIRE TO CREATE A MORE INTERNATIONALLY-MINDED BODY POLITIC. DE OLLOQUI APPEARED GREATLY INTERESTED IN JAPAN'S INITIATIVE. MAYNES ALSO STRESSED TO DE OLLOQUI STRONG U.S. INTEREST IN AVOIDING ANY ASSERTIONS THAT ZIONISM WAS A FORM OF RACISM AT GENEVA MEETING. BOTH SAID THAT MEXICO SHARED OUR INTEREST AND IS WORKING TO SEEK APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE.

14. CONVERSATIONS WERE CORDIAL, FRANK AND FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT AND BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED INTENTION CONSULT CLOSELY DURING UPCOMING UNGA. MCANINCH

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